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#### Dear Friend,

Last year, I wrote to you to share my optimism about being part of the new leadership of the 110th Congress and our plans to push for a new direction for America. While we still have a long way to go, this Congress took very significant steps in the right direction. Not all of them received much publicity, so I wanted to be sure you know about the progress we have made on the goals I laid out in last year's newsletter.

**Real Security at Home and Overseas:** We implemented the recommendations of the bipartisan, independent 9/11 Commission to require that all air cargo and containers are screened and to provide support for first responders; to provide more equipment, training and body armor for our troops; and to strengthen the readiness of the National Guard to meet disasters here at home.

Better American Jobs – Better Pay: We raised the minimum wage for the first time in nearly a decade, provided math and science scholarships for students and teachers, and doubled research funding to create new American jobs.

College Access for All: We made college more affordable by enacting the largest college aid expansion since the GI bill, cutting student loan interest rates in half, increasing Pell Grants by \$500, and providing loan forgiveness for graduates who enter public service.

Honoring Our Commitment to Veterans: We addressed the immediate needs of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans by adding \$5.2 billion for expanded health care (including mental health care and benefit claims) and improving VA health facilities.

Energy Independence and Global Warming: We passed legislation to raise fuel economy standards to 35 miles per gallon by 2020, which will reduce oil consumption by 1.1 million barrels per day in 2020 (one-half of what we currently import from the Persian Gulf), reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, and save American families \$700 to \$1000 per year at the pump.

Child and Family Safety: We gave the Consumer Product Safety Commission new resources and authority to protect children from lead-based toys, dangerous cribs and play seats, and unsafe imports. We passed the most sweeping prescription drug safety provisions in decades.

We also restored the all important OVERSIGHT function of the Congress. Government must be held accountable. Last year, we held nearly 300 hearings into the Bush Administration's handling of Iraq, including the role of contractors like Halliburton and Blackwater.

These accomplishments are just the first steps along the path toward a more just and peaceful country and world.

As always, I appreciate hearing your concerns and your ideas about how Congress can act to benefit the families and businesses of the 9th Congressional District and the nation.

Janschalmoly

My district offices are available to assist you with all federal issues and for any help in accessing government services or programs.

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# Congressional Survey





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